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service having progressively greater degrees of interaction at multiple levels of interaction, said multiple levels of interaction including a first level of interaction with the system and a second level of interaction with the system, said second level of interaction being adapted to respond to said user at a more detailed level than said first level of interaction.

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14. (Four Times Amended) A networked system linking individuals with a server that provides one of the group consisting of medical, veterinary, and other health care information on subjects of interest to an inquirer, and provides the inquirer with sequential access to a plurality of levels of service having progressively greater degrees of interaction with health care workers at multiple levels of interaction, said multiple levels of interaction including a first level of interaction with a health care worker and a second level of interaction with a health care worker, said second level of interaction being adapted to respond to said inquirer at a more detailed level than said first level.

30. (Four Times Amended) A method of providing one of the group consisting of medical, veterinary, and other health care information on subjects of interest to a user, the method comprising:

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determining an initial desired level of service access for the user, said initial level of service access including a first level of interaction;

accepting an inquiry from the user;

composing a search request based on the user inquiry;

searching a database, using the search request, in order to identify information requested in the user inquiry;

providing the search results to the user;

accepting a follow-up inquiry from the user which entails providing a higher level of service access than said initial level, wherein said higher level of service includes a second level of interaction, said second level being adapted to respond to said user at a more detailed level than said first level of interaction; and

D3 allowing the user to request a consultation with a health care professional and, if desired by the user, providing the user with a list of possible health care professionals.

33. (Thrice Amended) A health care system for delivering health care to a patient at any one of a plurality of distinct levels of service, said system providing the patient with sequential access to remaining levels of said plurality that provide progressively greater degrees of interaction at multiple levels of interaction, said multiple levels of interaction including a first level of interaction with the system and a second level of interaction with the system, said second level of interaction being adapted to respond to said patient at a more detailed level than said first level of interaction, the system comprising:

D4 a server, communicatively coupled to a network, for receiving and transmitting signals;

a monitoring device, communicatively coupled to the network and adapted to be connected to the patient, which is adapted to monitor the patient and to transmit patient information to the server over the network when a highest level of service is utilized in the health care system;

a treatment device, communicatively coupled to the network and adapted to be connected to the patient, which receives a treatment signal from the server over the network and is adapted to administer a treatment to the patient based on the treatment signal received when the highest level of service is utilized in the health care system.

38. (Twice Amended) A networked health care system that provides a client with sequential access through a plurality of levels of service, said system comprising:

D5 a means for providing a first level of service, wherein said first level of service provides primarily informational data to a user that has requested information, the informational data being provided to the user at a specific level of sophistication based on user-entered data that pertains to the user's ability to understand data provided to the user,

a means for providing a second level of service, wherein said second level of service receives and processes comments from the user on an adequacy of the informational data provided to the user, and wherein a determination is made as to whether a referral to a professional is needed,

D5 a means for providing a third level of service, wherein said third level of service provides for a client-professional relationship to be established between the user and a health care professional who advises the user concerning additional information needed and other actions which should be taken in relation to health care treatment of the user, and

a means for providing a fourth level of service, wherein said fourth level of service provides for physical interaction between the user and the health care professional, by way of monitoring devices or treatment devices directly coupled to the user, and wherein messages to and from the monitoring devices and the health care professional are provided so as to allow the health care professional to monitor patient parameters and to administer management advice for the user.
